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**TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO: House Education Committee**  
**FROM: Rebecca Holcombe, Secretary, Agency of Education**  
**TOPIC: Draft No. 5.1 2.25.15 Response per your Request**  
**DATE: February 26, 2015**

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Your committee requested a formal Agency response to the latest version of the House Education bill, which we understand you hope to vote out of committee today.

While we have not had time to fully work through any cost implications of 5.1, we will work diligently with you in an ongoing way to support the work of the Legislature and our schools.

Our priority will be making sure our districts have the necessary legal, fiscal and modeling support they need in any transition. We appreciate the efforts you are making to increasingly focus the bill, so that we can likewise focus our efforts on supporting this transition.

In general, our work and the work of administration in the field is shaped by the number of governing units, and in the long run, transitioning from SUs to SDs, as implied in the bill should reduce administrative costs and burdens both at the AOE and in the field, freeing up time and resources for work on quality and instruction and technical assistance.

Thank you.